



# GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

April 06, 2012

## News & Articles

### FDA Mulls Need for Anthrax Protection Kits

A joint advisory committee for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration met to consider the feasibility of stocking personal antibiotic medical kits in homes to be used in the event of a domestic emergency involving anthrax. Each kit would contain a 10-day supply of doxycycline hyclate, and would require a prescription from a healthcare provider. [MORE>>](#)

### Twenty-Three Percent all LHDs Reduced or Eliminated Emergency Preparedness during 2011

*Article originally published in the March 2012 issue of Preparedness Brief from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO).* A new report based on data from the January 2012 NACCHO Survey of Job Losses and Program Cuts shows that cuts to budgets, staffing, and programs continue to plague many local health departments (LHDs) throughout the nation. Fifty-seven percent of all LHDs reduced or eliminated at least one program during 2011, and emergency preparedness was among the programs hardest hit, with 23 percent of all LHDs reducing or eliminating services that assure readiness to respond to public health emergencies and other disasters. Findings from this survey are being shared with government agencies, members of Congress, and the press. [MORE>>](#)

### Budget Cuts Continue to Affect the Health of Americans: Update March 2012

*Research Brief from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)*

Federal, state and local government budget cuts are jeopardizing a decade of significant gains made by state and territorial health agencies. Critical programs and services have been cut or reduced, staff positions have been eliminated and many staff have been laid off or furloughed. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has been following this trend since 2008, when it initiated a longitudinal study to investigate the impact of budget cuts on state health agencies and the people they serve. [MORE>>](#)

### City and Postal Service Team Up to Protect Louisville Citizens

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Postal Service today announced a partnership that will allow for the implementation of a demonstration project that would use postal letter carriers to deliver the antibiotic doxycycline to residential addresses within 48 hours of an airborne biological attack. Louisville and Minneapolis-Saint Paul will be participating in the project. [MORE>>](#)



### NACCHO Podcast Interview with HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Dr. Nicole Lurie

[Listen Now>>](#)

### Review an APC Tool and be Entered to Win a Free NACCHO 2012 Conference Registration

The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Advanced Practice Centers (APC) program is offering a chance to win a registration for the NACCHO 2012 Annual Conference (an \$800 value) by posting a review of an APC Tool on the APC website. [MORE>>](#)

### FEMA Announces Creation of FEMA CORPS

In March, FEMA announced the creation of FEMA CORPS, a newly-created unit of 1,600 service corps members from AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps who are solely devoted to FEMA disaster response and recovery. The full-time residential service program is for individuals ages 18-24, and members will serve a one-year term including a minimum of 1,700 hours, providing support working directly with disaster survivors. The first members will begin serving this August and the program will reach its full capacity within 18 months. The program will enhance the federal government's disaster capabilities, increase the reliability and diversity of the disaster workforce, promote an ethos of service, and expand education and economic opportunity for young people. [MORE>>](#)

## Table of Contents...

News & Articles.....	1
Research.....	2
Michigan Update.....	3
Tools & Resources .....	4
Training & Events .....	5

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
April 20, 2012

### **US Biosecurity Board Revises Stance on Mutant-flu Studies**

On March 30, 2012, the U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) retracted an earlier decision, and recommended the publication of two controversial avian flu papers. The board unanimously recommended the full publication of one of the papers, while a 12-to-6 vote determined that only the data, methods and conclusion of the second paper should be published. [MORE>>](#)

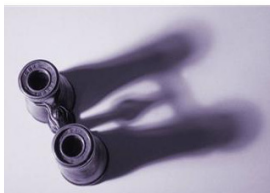
## **Research**

### **In Vitro Characterization of a Nineteenth-Century Therapy for Smallpox**

Authors in PLoS One study a nineteenth-century botanical preparation that in historical documents was said to prevent smallpox. The preparation was from the *Sarracenia purpurea* plant and was said to prevent not only smallpox but also monkeypox and vaccinia virus as well. The researchers studied the action of four herbs in vitro: *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Astragalus membranaceus*, *Echinacea angustifolia*, and *Coriolus versicolor*. HeLa cells were infected with orthopoxvirus, and then treated with each of the herbal preparations. The research showed that treatment with *Sarracenia purpurea* preparation inhibited viral replication in the cells infected with Orthopoxvirus. The researchers concluded that further study of the effects of *Sarracenia purpurea* should be done to see how it reacts within the human body as the side effects are unknown. [MORE>>](#)

### **H5N1 surveillance: Shift Expertise to where it Matters**

A comment published in the journal, Nature, argues for more tools and training in the areas where H5N1 is most prevalent. The author says, frequently, when a H5N1 outbreak occurs epidemiological surveillance only takes place as a response to outbreaks and mostly by scientists from other countries who don't understand the culture of the country they are investigating. He argues that building partnerships with tools and training for countries where H5N1 is endemic is an easier way to prevent outbreaks from occurring. [MORE>>](#)



### **Under Surveillance: Global systems for monitoring threats from flu need a radical overhaul**

An editorial published by the journal, Nature, argues that the global monitoring system for influenza threats should be overhauled. The editorial cites that the current system is not capable of identifying and tracking influenza threats.

Part of the problem is that many countries around the world do not report disease because of diverse philosophical reasons such as fear of being taken advantage of by other richer countries without providing resources. They conclude this issue needs to be worked out before any global monitoring system will be effective. [MORE>>](#)

### **Open Access Articles on Biosecurity Achievements in the Last Decade**

Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science published an open access special feature with several articles touching on aspects of bioterrorism prevention and natural disease outbreak response and prevention over the last decade. [MORE>>](#)

### **Bulletin of the World Health Organization – Influenza Issue Available Online**

The current issue of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization, an international journal of public health with special focus on developing countries, is entirely on the theme of influenza. The full April 2012 edition is available online. [MORE>>](#)

# The Michigan Update

## **OPHP Welcomes New Emergency Management Coordinator**

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) is pleased to announce that Kathy Wahl has accepted the Healthcare and Public Health Emergency Management and Policy Specialist (MDCH Emergency Management Coordinator) Position effective April 1, 2012. Kathy has extensive healthcare experience with a Bachelor's in Community Development with a Health Sciences Emphasis, as well as, a Master's in Nursing Leadership and Management.



Kathy's background in healthcare is at many different levels ranging from staff RN to interim Vice President of Patient Care Services in a community hospital. Most of her clinical years were spent as an emergency department nurse and emergency department Director, which led to her interest and involvement in emergency management.

Kathy was the Emergency Credentialing Project Planner at OPHP from June 2011 to present. In this role, she has worked with regional partners and Michigan Volunteer Registry staff to implement a new registry system and that will enable hospitals across the State to ensure that licensed healthcare volunteers who may be deployed in a mass casualty event through the Michigan Volunteer Registry are appropriately credentialed and hospital ready.

In her spare time, Kathy is a Medical Examiner Investigator for Shiawassee County, and is an active member of the Michigan Mass Fatality Operational Response Team (MI MORT) serving as the Victim Identification Center Chief. Kathy Wahl can be reached at [wahlk@michigan.gov](mailto:wahlk@michigan.gov).

## **Region 7 Snowstorm Update (March 2012)**

On Friday March 2, 2012, a winter storm warning was issued beginning at 5:00 PM through 5:00 PM Saturday March 3, 2012. This was a significant snowstorm with winds up to 30 miles per hour and snow piling from 15-30 inches. The electric grid across northern Michigan was affected with significant loss of utility, phone, and cable system.

The Benzie-Leelanau County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Michelle Klein, reported, "No water, no heat and very limited communication for days. ....land lines and internet were out, and cell phones were spotty. Text messages almost always went through without a problem." Klein was able to access the internet with her iPhone most of the time stating, "Those with smart phones were also able to communicate via Facebook."

Emergency management's response in coordinating care and service in the community included:

- Partial activation of the EOCs to support sheltering operations, public information/media interaction and logistical support.
- RACES staff assembled as a precautionary measure in case backup communications assistance was needed. 800MHz assets were placed on standby as well.
- Overnight and warming shelters were set up by emergency management and the American Red Cross.
- Emergency management interfaced with the power companies and were kept informed of restoration times, outage reports and status maps

The storm impacted the most vulnerable residents. One emergency manager reported special situations involving elderly or ill patients that needed help with life sustaining arrangements/equipment or direct referrals to medical care assistance. Emergency management received calls for assistance from two group homes that required special help with power issues. For one, relocation was not an option. Emergency management coordinated with the power company to get service restored within a few hours to those priority locations. Additional steps included making contact with an Agency on Aging representative for a client that needed special assistance.

Klein noted that in mid-February, Leelanau County had completed part one of a three part exercise series with long term care facilities. The scenario was a snowstorm with power outage and impassable roads.

By Wednesday, March 7, 2012, shelters were closed and temperatures reached the 50's. Electricity was gradually being restored to the community. Implications for Public Health:

- The course of emergency operations was easily followed on E Team.
- Communication with the outside world was possible with Facebook and texting.
- We need to plan for redundancy. Once electricity was down, several of the managers changed locations for internet access.
- It was sad to see all the broken trees, but many great stories of neighbors helping neighbors.

### **(Region 7) Upcoming Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q) Exercise: Ship Quarantine**

District Health Department #4 and the Region 7 public health and hospital preparedness programs are working with the U.S. Coast Guard to plan a tabletop exercise involving the quarantine of a 180 ft. ship. The scenario involves a vessel that because of unusual health symptoms, docks at the port in Alpena to seek medical assistance for the 11 crew and 31 scientists who have become ill. The exercise is scheduled to take place August 15, 2012 at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI. Planners anticipate future plans for follow-up functional and full-scale drills to this scenario exercise.

## **Tools & Resources**

### **APC Tools Available to Support PHEP Capability Objectives**

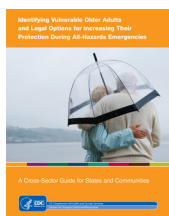
NACCHO's Advanced Practice Centers (APC) Program offers free tools to assist local health departments in their preparedness efforts. The APC website provides an interactive list of the 15 Capabilities. Select the capability and see all the APC-developed resources available to support that capability. The Advanced Practice Centers (APC) Program is a network of local health departments with the mission to promote innovative and practical solutions that enhance the capabilities of all local health departments and the public health system to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. [MORE>>](#)



### **Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response**

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently released a report titled Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response. This report describes how standards of care would change due to shortages of critical resources during a major disaster. A digital copy of the report can be downloaded

for free at the link below. As a special offer to its members, the National Academies Press (NAP), the publisher for the IOM, is offering a 25% discount off the list price for print versions of either the prepublication which is currently available, or the forthcoming final version of the book. Please enter promotional code FCRISS in the NAP shopping cart to take advantage of the discount. [MORE>>](#)



### **Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing Their Protection During All-Hazards Emergencies: A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities**

This guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aims to equip public health officials and essential partners from other sectors and at all jurisdictional levels with critical information, strategies, and resources to improve planning for and protection of vulnerable community-dwelling older adults during all-hazards public health emergencies. The guide covers topic areas such as developing plans, partnering and collaboration, using data for action, building registries, using law-based solutions, sheltering, and caregiver preparedness. ASTHO staff and representatives from state health agencies were involved in the development of the guide. [MORE>>](#)

**HPP and PHEP presentations from the March Joint Preparedness conference in Atlanta are available online, click [HERE](#).**

## **Training & Events**

### **Live Satellite Broadcast:**

#### **Successful Strategies for Integration of Immunization and Emergency Preparedness Programs in Planning and Practice April 10, 2012, 1-2:30 pm (Eastern)**

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) will co-host a live satellite broadcast with South Central Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center, Emory PERCC, and ASTHO to further investigate best practices and lessons learned resulting from the Emory PERCC and AIM 2010 H1N1 survey of immunization program managers. Immunization and emergency preparedness staff members from Wisconsin, Alabama, and Nebraska will address the AIM Immunization Program and Emergency Preparedness Program Pandemic Preparedness Collaboration Principles in an effort to uncover best approaches to achieving the goals outlined in the principles. State and local immunization and emergency preparedness program staff are invited to participate. Jim Blumenstock, ASTHO chief program officer, will moderate the panel. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

### **Webcast: Disaster Preparedness: Are We Ready for Kids?**

**April 19, 2012**

**1:00-2:30 PM (Eastern)**

This training is aimed at pediatricians, nurses, social workers, emergency medical responders, health care providers, disaster management personnel, community leaders, government officials, counselors, and school administrators. The purpose of the training is to acknowledge disaster readiness as a significant pediatric and public health care concern, and to recognize the enhanced vulnerability of children during disasters. Discussion topics include key evidence gaps in the pediatric readiness literature, lessons learned from recent disasters, and opportunities to improve pediatric emergency and disaster preparedness.

[More Information>>](#)

[Register>>](#)



## **Webcast: When Disaster Strikes People Turn to the Internet for Information.**

**April 26, 2012**

**2:00-3:00 PM (Eastern)**

Join Emergency Management, the Center for Digital Government and Google for an insightful live webcast. Hear firsthand how Emergency Management agencies and the "Whole Community" of 1st Responders can now leverage new simple to use tools from Google to run many of their internal operations during a crisis.

Google has been partnering with government agencies and NGO's in responding to natural disasters since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Today it applies its resources to help streamline internal operations to help deliver accurate, relevant, and credible information to the public when crises happen.

At this event we will discuss how to:

- Use online technology to quickly reach people in need and to efficiently run your internal operations during a crisis
- Host a custom map with authoritative and crowd-sourced geographic information
- Seamlessly manage data via the web to provide instant access to all government officials
- Make your emergency alert data more accessible to the public
- Don't miss this informative event as we help you with your goals to surface emergency information through many of the online tools you use every day.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

## **2012 Integrated Training Summit**

**May 21-25, 2012**

**Nashville, TN**

Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS), the 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit brings together HHS partners including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). Expert faculty will present on key focus areas; Healthcare Systems, Leadership, Public Health, Resource Management & Patient Movement, and Response Integration/Operational Medicine. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## **Immunization Nurse Seminar Series**

CDC Invites physicians, nurses, and other immunization providers to join the Immunization Nurse Seminar series, webcast and discussion session. More information is available [HERE](#).



### *Mailing Address:*

*Office of Public Health Preparedness*

*Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913*

*(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>*



This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 2U90/TP517018-11 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.